

presented to the Society by Mr. Kaye and the Rev. Mr. Egerton." By the Curator.

The species from the beds discovered by Mr. Kaye at Pondicherry are, with a few exceptions, new. Among those from Verdachellum and Trinconopoly, are several well-known greensand fossils. The Pondicherry beds appear, from the evidence afforded by their organic contents, to belong to the lowest part of the lower greensand; whilst those at Verdachellum and Trinconopoly may be referred to the upper greensand. In this Report 156 new species of Mollusca are described and named.

4. "On the European Equivalents of the Permian System, with a General View and Table of its Organic Contents." By Mr. Murchison and M. de Verneuil.

The chief objects of this paper are,—1st, to sustain Mr. Murchison's original opinion, that the *rothe-todte-liegende* forms the true base of the Permian system; 2ndly, to point out the equivalents in Western Europe of the Russian series of this age, and to extend the upper palæozoic rocks, so as to embrace the lower part of the bunter sandstein; 3rdly, to analyse the flora and fauna, showing, that whilst connected downwards with the carboniferous rocks, they were entirely dissimilar from those of the overlying trias; and, lastly, to vindicate the use of the collective word *Permian*, and its application to a recently published map of England, as derived from a group of strata never previously united through their geological relations and organic remains.

Feb. 21.—The following papers were read:—

1. "Some account of the Strata observed in the course of the Blechingly Tunnel, Surrey, in the year 1841." By Mr. Simms.

The tunnel was carried through a spur of a range of hills, formed by the escarpment of the lower greensand. In the line of the cutting, the spur consisted chiefly of Weald clay, and proved to form part of an anticlinal axis, which extends across the Weald from the chalk of the North Downs in Surrey, between Merstham and Garlstone, to the chalk of the South Downs in Sussex, near Ditchling.

2. "Some Remarks on the White Limestone of Corfu and Vido." By Captain Portlock, R.E.

The author has found fossils in the limestone of Vido. They are very locally distributed, Ammonites in one place, and *Terebratula* in another; the former in bad condition, the latter very perfect. They appear to be nearly allied to *Terebratula Pala* and *T. resupinata*, oolitic species, and to a species from Dundry. Captain Portlock regards them as new, and names the species *T. Seatonii*; inferring, from their presence, that the limestone in question is probably oolitic.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The genus Chiton found in the Magnesian Limestone of Durham.

A LATE field-day among the magnesian limestone beds of the neighbourhood of Sunderland has yielded me nearly all the plates of a

beautiful species of *Chiton*. This is a discovery of some importance to the fauna of the Permian epoch. The fact of the existence of this genus at so early a period, or rather an earlier one, was first made known by Duchastel and Puzos, who found it in the carboniferous beds of Tournay; lately De Koninck has figured two or three species from the same locality. Only two species (*C. Grignonensis* and *C. fascicularis*) have been published as tertiary, and none I believe have yet been discovered in the intermediate formations. This ought to induce collectors to look out for the remains of this genus in the secondary rocks, for in such I have no hesitation in saying that they will hereafter be found. I strongly suspect that Professor Phillips has been describing from the postal plate of some Chitons when he constructed the genus *Metoptoma*: the corresponding plate of the magnesian limestone species has precisely the form of the so-called *Metoptoma imbricata*, *M. pileus* and *M. sulcata*. It is probable however that *Metoptoma oblonga* (judging from what appears to be a muscular impression in the figure, if it represent a cast) belongs to a different genus—say *Capulus*.

Museum, Newcastle, Oct. 20, 1844.

WM. KING.

ON THE HABITS OF THE GODWIT.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,

On the reading of a paper in the Section of Natural History of the British Association relating to the habits of some of our native birds, the Very Reverend the President of the Section is reported in the *Athenæum* (No. 883.) to have made the following observation:—

“The godwit had been mentioned: it had a long bill, and it was generally supposed that birds with long bills lived by suction, but this was not the case with the godwit, as it fed voraciously and flourished upon barley. It could not drink in deep water, but was always obliged to have recourse to the edge of a stream to drink.”

With respect to the godwit, it may be perfectly true that it feeds on barley, although the fact has never come under my own observation, notwithstanding a very long residence on the coast, where I have had opportunities of seeing hundreds of the birds in question feeding on the slob, the muddy margins of estuaries and on sandy shores, as well as far inland. But though I dispute not the statement as to the godwit's grain-eating propensities, I most positively assert that it also frequently “bores” in moist earth in search of food, in a similar manner to the snipe, having frequently seen it do so along the margins of freshwater streams, which at low water run over sandy or muddy flats, and where the sand or mud is not very compact. Another favourite haunt of the godwit is by the sides of the channels left at low tide in salt-water lagoons. The bill is then inserted in the soft mud or sand to its base, apparently for the purpose of securing such objects of food as harbour beneath the surface.

As to snipes and other long-billed birds living on suction nothing can be more opposed to fact, for the snipes feed on the larvæ of in-